

pH, i.e., a pKa of about 4 to 7 in the case of an amino lipid. A preferred ionizable amino lipid is DODAP. Other ionizable lipids which could be used include DODMA[, and DOGS].

In the claims:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (twice amended) A composition comprising a population of oligodeoxynucleotide-containing lipid vesicles in an aqueous carrier, at least a portion of the lipid vesicles within said population being small multilamellar vesicles, wherein the small multilamellar vesicles comprise:
 - (a) a lipid component comprising 20-30 mol % of an ionizable amino lipid, a steric barrier lipid and additional lipid components selected from among neutral lipids and sterols; and
 - (b) oligodeoxynucleotides contained in the lumen or interlamellar spaces of the small multilamellar vesicles, wherein the ionizable lipid is selected such that the small multilamellar vesicles are substantially neutral at physiological pH.

Please cancel claims 10-22.

REMARKS

This is in response to the Official Action mailed January 28, 2003 for the above-captioned application. Applicants request any extension of time required to make this paper timely. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 15-0610.

Reconsideration and further examination of the application in view of the remarks herein are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 are examined in this application. Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the invention in the definition of the term "ionizable lipid" by indicating that the lipid is selected such that the small multilamellar vesicles are substantially free of external, non-encapsulated oligodeoxynucleotides at pH 7.5. This limitation is supported throughout the application, and in particular in the examples.